



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ motamembers.org

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 625 – Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland - Establishment

Hearing Date: February 10, 2022

Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) fully supports *House Bill 625 – Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland – Establishment*. The bill would establish a commission that provides a comprehensive review and recommendations regarding the health care workforce shortages that Maryland is currently facing. These shortages have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and we believe it will be a long-road to recovering from the impact. Health care practitioners have left the field because of the high rate of burn-out with the pandemic; and we have struggled to maintain our educational programs in a virtual setting to prepare our future health care practitioners.

We would ask for two clarifying amendments:

Amendment 1: Input from health professional associations

On page 2 in line 21, strike “may” and replace with “shall”.

Explanation: The bill permits the Commission to establish advisory committees. We believe the input of health professionals and their associations is crucial.

Amendment 2: Expand focus to include school health

On page 2 in line 29, add “and other long-term care programs, primary and secondary schools” after “nursing homes”

Explanation: We believe its importance to recognize the shortage in programs such as assisted living and medical day as well as school-based settings.

Thank you for your attention to this important bill. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.